



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 4 August 2008

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)
<http://www.dhs.gov/>

- According to WCPO 9 Cincinnati, Federal Aviation Administration statistics show a significant jump in runway incursions nationwide this year over last. (See item [15](#))
- The Associated Press reports that the Indiana National Guard is notifying nearly 600 soldiers who served in Iraq that they may have drunk water tainted with a carcinogen at an Iraqi treatment plant. Sodium dichromate was used at the Basra facility as a corrosion inhibitor in water. (See item [23](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Fast Jump

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Service Industries: [Banking and Finance; Transportation; Postal and Shipping;](#)
[Information Technology; Communications; Commercial Facilities](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture and Food; Water; Public Health and Healthcare](#)

Federal and State: [Government Facilities; Emergency Services; National Monuments and](#)
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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: ELEVATED,
Cyber: ELEVATED

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) –
<http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *August 1, Reuters* – (National) **Wind energy lobbyist maps U.S. power superhighway.** The executive director of the industry group the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) commissioned American Electric Power (AEP), the country's largest electricity transmitter and one of its largest power generators, to map how a new national network of power lines could potentially distribute wind power from the blustery "wind corridor" from Texas to North Dakota to the heavily-populated coasts. The "AEP Transmission Vision" map looks as if the U.S. has a case of green varicose veins that mass in the central corridor and stretch to the coasts. The veins represent AEP's proposal of 19,000 miles of 765-kilovolt power lines, which are far bigger than

most lines used today. “It would be a tremendous step forward to provide a more reliable, robust system to serve the entire electric industry, not just wind,” said the executive director, who added that the bigger lines would face fewer complaints from environmentalists than a maze of smaller lines, because they would need less ground space. An AEP spokeswoman said the lines would be a “very highly efficient kind of superhighway” that would help fix the aged U.S. grid and prevent massive blackouts, like the 2003 outage that hit over 40 million people in eight states in the Northeast. It could also provide a backbone for renewable power, such as wind from the heartland and solar from the Southwest, which need a solid network because their power generation fluctuates steeply when the wind stops or the clouds block the sun. The map is making the rounds. It was distributed on Capitol Hill two weeks ago.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSN3149186820080801?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=10218>

2. *July 31, Post-Chronicle* – (International; National) **Counterterrorism: U.S. protects Colombian oil fields from FARC.** The Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline transports almost 20 percent of Colombia’s oil production. And it is the most vulnerable and desirable target in Colombia for terrorists such as members of the narco-terrorists FARC. The Colombian pipeline has been a principal infrastructure target for terrorist attacks by Colombia’s insurgent groups for many years. In just one year, attacks on the pipeline cost the Colombian government an estimated \$500 million in lost revenues for the year. The U.S. agreed to assist Colombia in protecting the first 110 miles of the pipeline where most of the attacks were occurring. Since 2002, the U.S. has provided about \$99 million in equipment and training to the Colombian Army to minimize terrorist attacks along the first 110 miles of the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline, mostly in the Arauca department. U.S. Special Forces have provided training and equipment to about 1,600 Colombian Army soldiers who comprise the security forces for the pipeline. Challenges to securing the pipeline remain. More attacks are occurring on the Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline outside the 110-mile long area originally addressed. Most of the Colombian Army stationed in these other areas has not received U.S. training. In addition, the insurgents have attacked the electrical grid system that provides energy to the Cano Limon oil field. Without electricity, oil cannot be pumped. Because the U.S. funds provided for the program will be depleted, sustainability of the progress made is uncertain. Due to U.S. commitments in other parts of the world, U.S. Special Forces will be reducing personnel in Colombia, which will limit future training. Source: http://www.postchronicle.com/commentary/article_212161302.shtml

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Chemical Industry Sector

Nothing to report

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Nuclear Reactors, Materials, and Waste Sector

3. *August 1, Republican Eagle* – (Minnesota) **Unit 1 shuts down; nuclear plant officials investigating.** Prairie Island nuclear plant Unit 1 automatically shut down at 8:17 a.m. Thursday while plant operators were conducting routine tests. Plant operators are investigating the cause of the shutdown. Repairs will be made before returning the plant to service, Xcel Energy officials said. There were no injuries and no radiological release as the result of the shutdown. There is no threat to the public, and this event did not meet any emergency plan classification criteria, Xcel said. Prairie Island Unit 2 continues to operate at 100 percent power. Plant operators expect a relatively short Unit 1 outage. As with any planned or unplanned power plant outage, Xcel Energy ramps up other generating units or purchases power from other utilities to ensure there is enough power for its customers. Nuclear Management Co. operates the plant for owner Xcel Energy.
Source: http://www.republican-eagle.com/articles/index.cfm?id=52155§ion=News&freebie_check&CFID=63419567&CFTOKEN=89646282&jsessionid=8830f6e8cac066372c6e
4. *August 1, New York Times* – (New York) **Expert panel concludes Indian Point nuclear plant is safe, but a little untidy in spots.** A panel of experts hired by the owners of the Indian Point plant in Westchester County to assess the safety of its nuclear reactors has found that while the plant is safe, its relationships with its neighbors are “unhealthy,” and parts of the place look so run down that it shakes public confidence. The four-month, \$4 million study by a panel of 12 outside experts was an unusual exercise paid for by the plant’s owner, Entergy Nuclear, as a way to increase public confidence as it seeks to extend the licenses on the two reactors. The panel’s report said that in many areas, the plant compared favorably with “top-performing plants” around the country. But it also said Entergy had cut back on the number of people assigned to work with local governments on emergency planning. The study did not address one of the central issues of relicensing: how well Entergy could cope with aging parts and equipment. The report did take on another long-standing worry, a September 11-style aircraft attack. The possibility of significant radiation release in such an attack “is extremely low to the point I would say of being noncredible,” said a co-chairman of the group and a professor of nuclear engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. But an outside expert who was not on the panel was not reassured. A nuclear engineer at the Union of Concerned Scientists said studies of fire risk assumed that the fire was contained to one room and that all the equipment outside that room functioned normally.
Source:
http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/01/nyregion/01nuke.html?_r=3&ref=nyregion&oref=slogin&oref=slogin&oref=slogin
5. *July 31, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission* – (New Jersey) **NRC proposes \$3,250 fine against New Jersey hospital for violations of NRC requirements.** The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is proposing a \$3,250 fine against Newark Beth Israel Medical Center in Newark, New Jersey, for violations of NRC requirements. NRC identified the violations during an inspection in April of this year. The violations involve

the failure to implement security requirements in a timely manner. The details of these violations are being withheld because they are related to security at the facility. The problems associated with the violations, which did not pose a threat to public health and safety, have been appropriately addressed. The medical center is required to respond to this enforcement action within 30 days.

Source: <http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/doc-collections/news/2008/08-047.i.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

6. *August 1, Philadelphia Daily News* – (Pennsylvania) **Ex-Boeing employee to plead guilty to copter sabotage, lawyer says.** A former Boeing Co. assembly-line worker from Bucks County will plead guilty to sabotaging a \$24 million Army helicopter in May by severing a bundle of electrical wires, according to his lawyer. An acting U.S. attorney yesterday formally charged the worker with a felony count of damaging government property. He was arrested about a week after the May 10 incident. “This case is not about mere vandalism,” the acting U.S. attorney said. “It involves damage to property that is vital to our military. Any action that delays delivery of materiel or that endangers the integrity of Army aircraft affects the safety of the men and women who are serving our country, and will not be tolerated.” Authorities say that the worker hacked apart a two-inch bundle of more than 150 electrical wires that ran to the cockpit of the CH-47F Chinook, disabling its avionics and flight-control systems. Boeing spent more than \$100,000 to repair the nearly complete dual-rotor transport helicopter, according to the U.S. attorney.
Source: http://www.philly.com/dailynews/local/20080801_Ex-Boeing_employee_to_plead_guilty_to_copter_sabotage_lawyer_says.html
7. *July 31, Reuters* – (National) **US Navy sees cost of LCS ships reaching \$550 mln.** New shore-hugging combat ships being built by Lockheed Martin Corp. and General Dynamics Corp. are now expected to cost 2.5 times the initial price tag of \$220 million, a top U.S. Navy official told lawmakers on Thursday. That would amount to a price tag of \$550 million for the new small, fast Littoral Combat Ship (LCS), which is designed to counter coastal threats, including floating mines, diesel submarines, and speedboats driven by guerrillas. Lockheed and General Dynamics are each building the first of two different designs for the new ship class. They are now bidding for work on the next three ships, and the Navy expects to award a contract later this year. Last year the Navy restructured the program and canceled orders with both General Dynamics and Lockheed for a second ship after it was unable to secure fixed-price deals with the companies for those ships. The program ran into cost problems early on, partly because the Navy implemented tough new requirements for military ships that had a big impact on the contractors’ cost estimates. A Defense consultant of the Lexington Institute noted that the lead ship or ships in a new class always cost more, but that price would drop once the Navy starting building the new ships at a faster rate. The Navy ultimately plans to buy 55 of the littoral ships, a key component of its plan to expand the fleet from 280 ships to 313.
Source:

<http://uk.reuters.com/article/governmentFilingsNews/idUKN3137098220080731?sp=true>

8. *July 31, Associated Press* – (National) **Navy says threat change behind destroyer decision.** Growing ballistic missile threats from rogue states and concerns about ballooning costs were behind the Navy's recent decision to end a new destroyer fleet after just two ships, a senior service official said Thursday. While the Zumwalt destroyer meets the requirements it was designed for, such as providing heavy cover fire to help Marines move ashore, the Navy found increased "gaps" in its warfighting capabilities, said the deputy chief of naval operations. Specifically, the Zumwalt cannot perform ballistic missile defense, or deploy standard missiles, which the Navy will need to effectively battle potential adversaries that are developing stealth submarines and related offensive threats, he told a House Armed Services subcommittee. The decision was based on recent activity by potential adversaries, he said, declining to be more specific during the hearing. The first two Zumwalt ships are expected to cost \$3.2 billion each, compared with the \$2.2 billion price tag for the current Arleigh Burke, or DDG-51, destroyer. However, the cost of a DDG-51 is expected to fall to \$1.8 billion in future years. The Navy, which now hopes to build eight more DDG-51 destroyers, said they have the capability needed to offer ballistic missile defense. Reopening the DDG-51 production lines also will be less risky than continuing the Zumwalt beyond the first two ships, service officials said. To date, 62 ships have been authorized for the DDG-51 program. A total of 53 ships have been delivered to the Navy.
Source: <http://www.forbes.com/feeds/ap/2008/07/31/ap5277648.html>
9. *July 31, Marine Link.com* – (National) **USS George Washington investigation complete.** An investigation determined that the likely cause of the May 22 fire on the USS George Washington was unauthorized smoking that ignited flammable liquids and other combustible material improperly stored in an adjacent space. The fire and the subsequent magnitude of the fire were the result of a series of human acts that could have been prevented. Specifically, the storage of 90 gallons of refrigerant compressor oil in an unauthorized space contributed to the intensity of the fire.
Source: <http://www.marinelink.com/Story/ShowStory.aspx?StoryID=212456>
10. *July 31, CNN* – (North Dakota) **Missile truck tips in latest Air Force mishap.** A truck carrying an unarmed missile booster tipped over in North Dakota on Thursday, the latest in a two-year string of Air Force mishaps. Thursday's accident was at least the second public mistake since the force's top leaders were fired in June for a "pattern of poor performance" involving the U.S. nuclear arsenal. The vehicle, which was carrying a Minuteman III rocket booster, tipped on its side on a gravel road about 70 miles southwest of Minot Air Force Base. The crew received only minor injuries. The transport was en route to a missile launch facility in the area. The commander of the 20th Air Force, whose responsibilities include the nation's intercontinental ballistic missile force, flew to Minot to inspect the damage and said an investigation is ongoing. He said that it is too early to determine how much damage was done to the missile but that the Air Force is approaching the accident as a "Class-A mishap," military-speak for an accident causing \$1 million or more in damage.

Source: http://www.cnn.com/2008/US/07/31/missile.mishap/index.html?eref=rss_us

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Banking and Finance Sector

11. *August 1, Boston Globe* – (National) **State charges Merrill with investor fraud.**

Massachusetts regulators yesterday charged Merrill Lynch & Co. with fraud and unethical conduct in the sales of auction-rate securities, alleging that the Wall Street firm pressured research analysts to publish misleading reports on the investments and failed to warn customers about the risks in the market. The secretary of state says Merrill kept pushing auction-rate debt aggressively, even as executives knew the market could fail. The complaint, filed by the Secretary of State's office, cites e-mails from Merrill Lynch management urging research staff to write positive reviews of the securities - which brokers at many firms were selling as safe alternatives to money market funds, right up until the auction-rate market collapsed in mid-February. The state said Merrill sold about \$95 million in auction-rate securities to 165 Commonwealth investors in January and February, even as executives knew the market could fail. Merrill defended its research practices and denied wrongdoing. Merrill says its brokers did know the risks of auction-rate securities, saying "they believed they were good investments for clients willing to trade some liquidity for higher return."

Source:

http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/articles/2008/08/01/state_charges_merrill_with_investor_fraud/

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Transportation Sector

12. *August 1, amNewYork* – (New York) **Port Authority bus riders see beefed-up security.** The best evidence of the beefed-up security at the Port Authority Bus Terminal in New York might be that a guy snapping photos inside can get stopped three times – twice by Port Authority employees and once by a plainclothes cop – within five minutes. The busiest bus station in the world, with some 200,000 passengers coming through each weekday, has taken steps to boost security during the past year. "It has all the attributes of a suburban shopping mall and a major transportation facility," said the Port Authority's chief operating officer. "It is in the category of those kind of facilities that have been targeted around the world." At a cost of \$100 million, the Port Authority has added steel cross braces to the south side of the south building as a seismic retrofit – a halfway-completed project to help the structure withstand natural disasters. Exterior columns were strengthened. Security cameras were added. Bollards (barriers often disguised as large planters) along Eighth Avenue and 42nd Street keep vehicles from ramming the building. The glass in the doors and the walls along the east and north sides of the building have been made shatter-proof. Since the 9/11 attacks, the Port Authority has spent more than \$200 million on security at the bus terminal. There have been other improvements, unseen by the public, that the Port Authority will not discuss, said a spokeswoman.

Source: <http://www.amny.com/news/local/am-port0801,0,5427792.story>

13. *August 1, Reuters* – (National) **China pilots banned from job-hopping for Olympics.**

Aviation regulators in eastern China have told airlines not to let pilots quit or change jobs before the end of the Beijing Olympics, fearing that job-hopping by pilots could undermine air safety, a source with direct knowledge of the matter said. The Civil Aviation Administration of China's (CAAC) eastern branch also secured an agreement from local courts not to rule on cases related to pilot resignations before or during the Games, which run from August 8 to 24, the source told Reuters late on Thursday.

Source:

<http://www.reuters.com/article/rbssIndustryMaterialsUtilitiesNews/idUSSHA20808320080801?pageNumber=1&virtualBrandChannel=0>

14. *July 31, Anchorage Daily News* – (Alaska) **Interior flooding cuts railroad service.**

Rail service between Anchorage and Fairbanks has been interrupted by flooding on the Tanana and Nenana rivers, the Alaska Railroad said today. An average of 700 passengers, many of them on tours, makes the trip daily, according to a railroad spokesman. Early Thursday, the Division of Homeland Security activated the State Emergency Coordination Center in response to the flooding in the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

Source: <http://www.adn.com/news/alaska/story/480942.html>

15. *July 31, WCPO 9 Cincinnati* – (National) **Is CVG safe from runway mishaps?** Many frequent air travelers say their biggest concern in the sky is the threat of a terrorist hijacking. But, the growth of air travel has created a new risk around crowded airports: The possibility of a catastrophic collision. The collisions happen not in the air, but on the runway. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) statistics show a significant jump in runway incursions nationwide this year over last. But, the administration says that is because it has adopted a broader international definition of runway incursions. Still, the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) says the "potential for a catastrophic accident is unacceptable," and is pushing the FAA to fix the problem. The FAA says controller burnout is not the issue. It asserts the statistics show pilot error is the far more likely culprit in runway incursions. At the pilots union's urging, the FAA is now adding backstops. The precautions include a ground surveillance radar to monitor everything on the airfield. At more than 20 airports around the country, including the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport, embedded red lights warn a pilot to stop his taxiing before he crosses an active runway.

Source: http://www.wcpo.com/news/local/story.aspx?content_id=e77cfd60-a328-4cab-95be-fef1cf13a8c2

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Postal and Shipping Sector

Nothing to report

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Agriculture and Food Sector

16. *August 1, National Restaurant Association* – (National) **National Restaurant Association calls for re-evaluation of food safety system and implementation of needed improvements at Congressional hearing.** The National Restaurant Association's Vice President of Health & Safety Regulatory Affairs testified at a hearing of the House Energy & Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations regarding the Salmonella Saint Paul outbreak. She focused her testimony on specific improvements for key parts of the food safety system. She noted that the food supply chain has been transformed in the last few years and that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is facing new and broader demands precisely because the food supply chain is more complex and global. She told lawmakers the following specific improvements were needed to move food safety efforts forward: adequate funding to ensure appropriate FDA staffing and expertise; improved collaboration and communication between government and industry during the investigation of a complex outbreak; communication and education strategies to effectively inform consumers in the event of an outbreak or recall; stronger standards and practices for fresh produce; recall authority, traceability, improved epidemiological investigations, and private sector certification.
Source: http://www.drinksmediawire.com/afficher_cdp.asp?id=3611&lng=2
17. *August 1, Associated Press* – (New York) **Man arrested in YouTube baby food poisoning threats.** A man was arrested Thursday after he allegedly claimed in hoax Internet videos that he had poisoned millions of bottles of baby food, some with cyanide or rat poison, because he wanted to kill black and Hispanic children. Gerber Products Co. and the Food and Drug Administration have found no evidence of tampering. The man was charged with sending threats in interstate commerce and falsely claiming to have tampered with a consumer product, crimes that carry a potential penalty of 10 years in prison upon conviction. In a statement, Gerber's parent company, Nestle Nutrition, said it believed the Internet postings were a "malicious hoax" and the company was cooperating with authorities.
Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2008/CRIME/08/01/baby.food.arrest.ap/index.html>
18. *July 31, Kansas City Star* – (Kansas) **Kansas makes pitch for lab on animal disease threats.** The governor of Kansas, researchers, public officials, and business leaders urged federal officials to select a site at Kansas State University for the new a new high-tech laboratory. Federal officials are gathering comments and questions from members of each community selected as a finalist for the proposed National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility. Other top contenders are in Texas, Georgia, North Carolina, and Mississippi. They are vying to replace an aging facility on Plum Island, New York, that conducts some types of this research. The lab works with some of the most contagious and potentially devastating maladies. Some of the targeted pathogens pose the risk of wiping out exposed livestock herds and shutting down exports of U.S. agricultural products. The prospect of a local laboratory nestled in the heart of cattle country that would handle even small quantities of these viruses has drawn fierce opposition. Officials attempted to reassure them that the laboratory would include multiple high-

tech layers of protection and it would be operated by highly trained researchers.

Source: <http://www.kansascity.com/business/technology/story/729232.html>

19. *July 31, Chicago Tribune* – (National) **Raising a global stink: Activists target methane gas from, um, cows.** Dairy and beef cows produce methane, a greenhouse gas 23 times more potent than carbon dioxide. Methane is a big concern because it is so much more potent than carbon dioxide, the chief source of man-made pollution behind rising global temperatures. The impact is great enough that researchers are stepping up efforts to limit bovine burps by tinkering with cattle feed. Some large dairies, including three in Illinois, are pumping the millions of gallons of manure they produce into bacteria-filled tanks that capture methane and use it to generate electricity.

Source:

http://www.istockanalyst.com/article/viewiStockNews+articleid_2461449&title=Raising_a_Global_Stink.html

20. *July 31, Reuters* – (International) **Potash strike could stoke hot fertilizer prices.**

Workers are in a legal strike position at three mines that last year produced about 30 percent of potash mined by Potash Corp. of Saskatchewan. Their union has said they want a bigger share of the company's record profits. The two sides are still negotiating, and there has been little discernible impact on the company's output to date. "If there was an extended strike which had a significant impact on production, this would probably result in a sharp jump in spot prices," said the director of industry consultancy Fertecon Ltd in an e-mail interview. Potash miners have not been able to keep up with demand this year, selling out their supplies as the world struggles to produce enough grain for food, livestock feed, and biofuels.

Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/feedarticle/7692112>

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Water Sector

21. *August 1, Post and Courier* – (South Carolina) **PVC pipe chemical found in water.** A chemical used to make PVC pipe was detected in water that overflowed a retention basin Thursday at a Charleston, South Carolina, plant, but it did not create an environmental or health hazard, the company's director of communications said. Rhodia, a specialty chemicals company, shut down production Thursday morning when a problem was detected in its fire water supply system. The malfunction discharged clean water into a retention basin on the plant site. Ethylene dichloride residue is in the basin. The discharge, coupled with rainfall, caused the basin to overflow. The water went into the marshland on the Ashley River side, the director of communications said. It is unlikely the chemical would have reached the river in detectable amounts, he said. The company notified the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.

Source:

http://www.charleston.net/news/2008/aug/01/pvc_pipe_chemical_found_water49389/

22. *July 31, Wall Street Journal* – (Georgia; North Carolina) **Where there's a will, there's**

a well – and water. Lawns are parched across much of the Southeast, roasted by a 28-month-long drought and new policies restricting most watering to nighttime hours. But in wealthy neighborhoods in the Southeast, wells used to keep their grass green and flowers blooming are increasingly common. While Atlanta's main water source, Lake Lanier, has sunk 15 feet below desired levels and ordinary families have let their lawns go brown, affluent residents are paying thousands of dollars to hydrogeologists and drilling companies to scout their estates for underground water. The Fulton County Department of Health and Wellness in Atlanta has issued 305 well permits to homeowners and businesses since the beginning of this year – 36 percent more than for 2006 and 2007 combined. In Raleigh, North Carolina, 95 permits have been issued this year, compared with 46 last year and 19 in 2006. And Orange County, North Carolina, has had such an influx of applications that it raised the price of a permit 65 percent to \$430 on July 1. The new wells in Atlanta and Raleigh are not the shallow wells that are sometimes found in backyards, particularly in areas that are not on sewer lines. Building one of the new deep wells is a messy and noisy process: Drilling companies bore holes usually 300 to 600 feet deep into fractured rock and then extract the water with an electric pump. The well owners have piqued the ire of water conservationists who believe they are poaching a community resource. In Atlanta, the city's water-violation hotline has received more than 2,000 calls from October 2007 to the present, and the city's Department of Watershed Management, in turn, has issued more than 1,400 warnings, ranging from letters to \$500 fines. Many of the well owners say they are just using what belongs to them. In Georgia and North Carolina, groundwater is considered a regulated riparian system, meaning if you own the land, you own the water underneath it. Many eastern states have similar laws, as opposed to states out west that have what is called prior appropriation, which means an agency owns the water instead. Despite these laws, too much pumping can lower the amount of groundwater if there are a lot of wells in one area that yield a significant amount of water, says Georgia's state geologist.

Source:

http://online.wsj.com/article/SB121745840551198655.html?mod=hps_us_at_glance_pj

23. *July 30, Associated Press* – (International) **Soldiers likely drank tainted water.** The Indiana National Guard is notifying nearly 600 soldiers who served in Iraq that they may have drunk water tainted with a carcinogen at an Iraqi treatment plant. During a U.S. Senate hearing in June, senators learned that sodium dichromate – a cancer-causing chemical that can also cause breathing problems – was used at the Qarmat Ali water plant near Basra, Iraq. No one had been treated at the Veterans Administration hospital in Fort Wayne with symptoms consistent with exposure. According to the testimony heard June 20 by the Senate Democratic Policy Committee, sodium dichromate was used at the Basra facility as a corrosion inhibitor in water. Indiana National Guard officials learned of the potential exposure June 27.

Source: [http://www.news-](http://www.news-sentinel.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/SE/20080730/NEWS/807300316)

[sentinel.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/SE/20080730/NEWS/807300316](http://www.news-sentinel.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/SE/20080730/NEWS/807300316)

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Public Health and Healthcare Sector

24. *August 1, RM Global Health* – (National) **CDC finds some bird flu strains have acquired properties that might enhance potential to infect humans.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released results of a study suggesting that some North American avian influenza A H7 virus strains have properties that might enhance their potential to infect humans as well as their potential to spread from human to human. The study was recently published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences USA. Avian influenza A H7 viruses are fairly common in birds, but rarely infect humans. Most cases of avian influenza infection in humans have resulted from contact with infected poultry or contaminated surfaces. “We know that influenza viruses are constantly changing and that is why it’s so important to watch them carefully. In this study, we discovered that some recently identified avian influenza A H7 viruses have some properties that could enhance their potential to infect people and possibly spread among people,” explained the CDC lead author on the project. “The results of this study underscore the importance of continued influenza virus surveillance,” she said.

Source: <http://rmgh.net/news-room/41-avian-influenza/768--cdc-finds-some-bird-flu-strains-have-acquired-properties-that-might-enhance-potential-to-infect-humans.html>

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Government Facilities Sector

25. *August 1, Evening Bulletin* – (Pennsylvania) **Federal building evacuated.** A man and a woman entered the William Green Federal Building in Philadelphia at 11 a.m. Thursday with a knife and gun ammunition in their pockets, after which authorities evacuated the area. The couple’s items were discovered as they walked through the metal detectors after entering the building. The facility is home to the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s (FBI) regional field office and other federal offices. The government office building and the streets near it were closed for roughly an hour. A daycare center, a garage, and popular historical sites around Independence Mall were also evacuated, affecting an estimated 2,000 people in all. Police took the man and the woman in for questioning. Authorities meanwhile found firearms, knives, and three small dogs in the man’s van parked at the visitor’s center parking lot, the FBI special agent in charge said. Police and bomb squad members searched for explosives, but the FBI did not report any being found.

Source:

http://www.thebulletin.us/site/index.cfm?newsid=19882605&BRD=2737&PAG=461&dept_id=576361&rfi=8

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Emergency Services Sector

26. *August 1, Moorpark Acorn* – (California) **CSUCI stages disaster drill.** A 36-hour education and training drill was held last Friday and Saturday at California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI). Participants acted as victims in a staged terrorist attack. The simulation was part of Operation Sunrise, the second annual training exercise held by Ventura County Public Health (VCPH) to test its policies and equipment in response to a large scale disaster. For 36 hours, beginning the morning of July 25 and ending the following Saturday evening, a university courtyard became a disaster-readiness training ground and education camp for hundreds of VCPH medical staff and emergency support volunteers from around the county. Law enforcement, firefighters, doctors, and nurses—considered first responders in emergencies—train constantly for such events. Operation Sunrise provided an opportunity for medical and mental health experts and citizens groups, such as Medical Reserve Corps, Community Emergency Response Team, and Disaster Assistance Response Team, to practice a coordinated response to a catastrophic event in Ventura County. More than 600 people participated in the event, which included training seminars throughout both days on topics such as psychological first aid, building search and shelter management. Officials with the state’s public health emergency services department, the U.S. Surgeon General’s office, the Air National Guard and medical staff from Los Robles Hospital and Medical Center in Thousand Oaks, Simi Valley Hospital, and other area hospitals also attended.

Source: <http://www.moorparkacorn.com/news/2008/0801/Community/016.html>

27. *July 29, Midland Daily News* – (Michigan) **Health officials practice for flu pandemic.** Midland County’s Public Health Department conducted a drill Wednesday at H.H. Dow High School to simulate a flu disaster. Forty healthcare employees were expected to participate in the “Operation Triage” drill as part of the department’s ongoing pandemic flu preparedness activities. Much of the exercise centered around setting up a triage point in Dow High’s gymnasium to process patients because, if a pandemic occurred, as many as 30 to 40 percent of the population would be sick. Health workers still would need to care for people who require stitches, suffered heart attacks, or are ready to give birth. The county’s plans are designed to allow its health care system to operate effectively and not be overwhelmed with stricken people, said the Midland County public health preparedness coordinator.

Source: http://ourmidland.com/articles/2008/08/01/local_news/1198536.txt

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Information Technology

28. *August 1, Information Week* – (National) **Most security breaches go unreported.** More than 89 percent of security incidents went unreported in 2007, according to survey of about 300 attendees at this year’s RSA Conference. Security incidents, as defined by the study, represent “an unexpected activity that brought sudden risk to the organization and took one or more security personnel to address.” Some of the security incidents, such as

the e-mail-borne malware and phishing that affected 69 percent of respondents' companies, may not have led to serious consequences in every instance. But 29 percent of those answering the survey said their organizations experienced customer or employee data leakage. Twenty-eight percent reported insider threats or theft and 16 percent reported intellectual property theft. The findings echo a recent study of over 500 data breach forensic investigations conducted by Verizon Business Security Solutions. According to Verizon's vice president of investigative response, the publicly reported breaches are "just the tip of iceberg." He said that less than five percent of the more than 500 cases covered in the Verizon study involved some form of disclosure. In short, companies appear to be far more insecure than they acknowledge.

Source:

<http://www.informationweek.com/news/security/attacks/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=209901208>

29. *July 31, IDG News Service* – (National) **A photo that can steal your Facebook account.** At the Black Hat computer security conference in Las Vegas next week researchers will demonstrate software they have developed that could steal online credentials from users of popular Web sites such as Facebook, eBay, and Google. The attack relies on a new type of hybrid file that looks like different things to different programs. By placing these files on Web sites that allow users to upload their own images, the researchers can circumvent security systems and take over the accounts of Web surfers who use these sites. They call this type of file a graphics interchange format java archive (GIFAR). At Black Hat, the researchers will show attendees how to create the GIFAR while omitting a few key details to prevent it from being used immediately in any widespread attack. The attack could work on any site that allows users to upload files, potentially even on Web sites that are used to upload banking card photos or even Amazon.com. Because GIFARs are opened by Java, they can be opened in many types of browsers. However, the victim would have to be logged into the Web site that is hosting the image for the attack to work.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9111298&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

30. *July 31, Computerworld* – (National) **Researcher reveals Twitter 'follow' bug.** Attackers can exploit a bug in Twitter to force victims to follow the hacker's account, a security researcher said Thursday. According to one researcher, the Twitter vulnerability could expose users to malware-hosting Web sites. "It can force people to follow you, which means all your tweets will be showed in their Twitter home page -- including potentially malicious links," he said. An attacker can currently leverage the bug by tricking users into clicking on a link on a malicious or hacked Web site. From that point, the victim's Twitter account is automatically set to follow the attacker's. On Twitter, "following" another means receiving all updates, or "tweets," sent by the other user. Those tweets are collected and displayed on the following user's Twitter home page, or on their phone or in their instant messaging client. This Twitter bug is the newer of a pair that the researcher has found on the service. Last week, he reported another vulnerability that allowed spammers and phishers to send e-mails that included links to

malicious sites to other Twitter users. Twitter patched that flaw today.

Source:

http://www.computerworld.com/action/article.do?command=viewArticleBasic&taxonomyName=security&articleId=9111278&taxonomyId=17&intsrc=kc_top

Internet Alert Dashboard

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: <http://www.us-cert.gov>.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Communications Sector

31. *July 31, CNet News* – (National) **House committee moves to ban in-flight cell phone use.** A House of Representatives committee voted to ban in-flight cell phone use permanently. By a voice vote, the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee passed the Halting Airplane Noise to Give Us Peace (Hang Up) Act, which was introduced earlier this year. The legislation, which now moves to the full House for consideration, would prohibit “voice communications using communications devices on scheduled flights,” with exceptions for flight crew members and a federal law enforcement officer acting in an official capacity. In-flight texting, Wi-Fi, and e-mail on airplanes would not be affected. In the past few years, the federal government has not looked kindly at in-flight calling. The Federal Communications Commissions, with support from the Federal Aviation Administration, already bans in-flight cell phone use, but the agency has the power to revisit the issue at any time. The “Hang Up” act, however, would write the prohibition into federal law.

Source: http://news.cnet.com/8301-17938_105-10004170-1.html

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Commercial Facilities Sector

32. *August 1, New York Times* – (Colorado) **Judge to rule on limits at Denver convention.** A federal trial in a lawsuit seeking to ease strict security provisions at the Democratic National Convention (DNC) ended Thursday with repeated questions from the judge about how the rules impinge on free speech, as the groups behind the lawsuit have charged. Lawyers for the City of Denver and the Secret Service, in their closing arguments, said the judge needed to consider the government’s significant interests, including public safety and the functioning of the city. Government witnesses, led by Denver’s deputy police chief said perceptions about security needs and the need to keep protesters at a safe distance from the convention had been heightened by a manual on potentially violent street tactics that could be found on Recreate 68’s Web site and by other groups that have announced plans on the Internet to disrupt the convention. Government witnesses also declined to answer some questions about their security

plans, thwarting lawyers for the protest groups who tried in their cross-examinations to pin down how security needs were being calculated. “The more we put out, the more vulnerable we are,” said a Secret Service agent in charge of security at the convention, in declining to answer a question from a lawyer on the American Civil Liberties Union team about the height of the security fence.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/01/us/politics/01denver.html?ref=politics>

33. *July 30, Colorado Independent* – (Colorado) **Military Intelligence and National Guard present at Denver DNC.** The Colorado Army National Guard is expected to transform a private Denver university campus into a restricted military lodging area during the Democratic National Convention (DNC) in August. More than 400 soldiers could be stationed in official capacity on the campus according to the National Guard, but the Guard is not disclosing what the troops will be doing during the convention. In mid-July the Colorado Independent reported that the Colorado National Guard was planning to rent more than 500 rooms around the Denver area for business relating specifically to the Democratic National Convention.

Source: <http://www.indybay.org/newsitems/2008/07/30/18521134.php>

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National Monuments & Icons Sector

34. *July 31, Casper Star-Tribune* – (Wyoming) **Scouts help fire fight as blazes grow near Pinedale, Cody.** Wyoming’s two major wildfires grew substantially Wednesday, as Boy Scouts came to the aid of firefighters in the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The blaze started when a campfire got out of control late Monday or early Tuesday. It grew from 40 acres Tuesday afternoon to more than 1,500 acres that evening. As of Wednesday evening the blaze had charred more than 2,000 acres of wilderness, fueled by dry, windy weather, and beetle-killed trees, said a spokeswoman for the Bridger-Teton. Firefighters are trying to keep the fire moving into the wilderness and away from private land, she said. Fire officials do not have an estimate for when the fire will be contained, she said. Meanwhile, the Gunbarrel Fire, about 40 miles west of Cody, also took off, growing from 1,200 acres to about 4,100 acres as of 5 p.m. Wednesday, an official said. The same conditions fueling the New Fork Lakes fire helped spread the Gunbarrel blaze through beetle-killed pine trees Wednesday afternoon, said a fire information officer for the Shoshone National Forest.

Source:

<http://www.casperstartribune.net/articles/2008/08/01/news/wyoming/d029b4b60bfc097e872574970003d82d.txt>

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Dams Sector

35. *July 31, Associated Press* – (Louisiana) **La. residents near levee lose fight to keep trees.** A federal judge sided with the government Thursday, denying a bid by homeowners to block the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers from removing trees and fences

from their properties. The Corps says removing hundreds of trees from the city's levees will make them stronger. The homeowners argued that the government's tree-cutting project represents an unconstitutional seizure of property without due process. Federal lawyers argued that the government is immune from such lawsuits and warned that barring the tree-removal project could lead to another catastrophe. "It goes back to the safety of the entire city and the stability of" the 17th Street Canal, said a Corps spokesman.

Source: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/25958778/>

36. *July 31, KIMO 13 Anchorage* – (Alaska) **Interior flooding reaches emergency levels.** In response to the flooding currently taking place in the Fairbanks North Star Borough, the Division of Homeland Security has activated the State Emergency Coordination Center. A flood warning issued by the National Weather Service earlier in the week will remain in effect until Thursday afternoon for the Tanana River from Delta Junction to Nenana. In addition to the Tanana River, the flooding of the Chena River has been reported. To battle the rising tide, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers lowered the gates on the Chena Flood Control Project to restrict the flow of the river Wednesday afternoon.

Source: <http://www.aksuperstation.com/home/ticker/26153874.html>

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